the situation. Inter-Ministerial teams were also sent to China to hold discussions with the Chinese side to mitigate the crisis. During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in April 2005, in response to concerns expressed by the Indian side, the Chinese side agreed to take measures for controlled release of accumulated water of the landslide dam on the River Parechu, as soon as conditions permitted. Following the flash floods in the River Sutlej in June 2005, which led to loss of property in downstream areas, Government asked the Chinese side to confirm the status of the landslide dam on the River Parechu, which was suspected to have collapsed and caused the flash flood. The Chinese side confirmed that the base structure of the landslide dam had been washed away and that with the discharge of accumulated water behind the landslide dam, the artificial lake on the River Parechu no longer posed any threat to the downstream areas.

(e) Government remain vigilant in monitoring the security situation in India's periphery and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of India.

Resolving border dispute with China

†2139. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to resolve border dispute with China;

(b) whether the Sino-Indian special representatives had reviewed the issue of the boundary dispute between India and China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far to resolve border dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) In June 2003, India and China each appointed a Special Representative on the boundary queston to explore the framework of a boundary settlement, proceeding from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been eight meetings of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Special Representatives so far. Based on the first five rounds of talks between the Special Representatives, which marked the end of the first phase of negotiations, both sides signed the "Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. In the second phase of negotiations, of which the last round was held in China from Nune 25 to 27, 2006, the two Special Representatives are engaged in discussions on an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the aforementioned Agreement. Such an agreed framework will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. Both India and China have expressed the conviction that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and should, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective.

Shanghai Corporation

2140. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India aims to join Shanghai Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for the same as on date;

(c) if so, the details of Indian delegation participated in the fifth summit of Shanghai Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details and number of documents signed at the fifth summit in the area related to security, counter-terrorism and energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) India has Observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO has not formulated its procedures for accepting new members as yet. The Joint Communique issued on 15 June 2006 after the SCO Summit Meeting in Shanghai *inter alia* states that the "the Heads of State (of SCO member countries) also entrusted the Council of National Coordinators to make recommendations on the procedure of SCO membership enlargement".

(c) India was represented at the sixth SCO Summit at Shanghai by Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Shri Deora was